Purchasing Happiness

A Guide To An Independent And Sovereign Heart

A Short Story

By

Nuwan Wijayaweera

Purchasing Happiness

A Guide To An Independent And Sovereign Heart

By Nuwan Wijayaweera

First Published In June 2019 AD/CE

INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED VIA AMAZON'S KINDLE DIRECT PUBLISHING

Anyone may reproduce or use this book in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or with any information storage and retrieval system, for non-commercial purposes, with no permission from the author, as long as a reference to this book and its edition is present.

The stories, names, characters and incidents mentioned in any fictional short story in this book are fictitious. No identification with actual events, persons, places, buildings and products is intended or should be inferred.

Cover Photo by Steve Halama via Unsplash.

Copyright © 2019 Nuwan Wijayaweera.

All Rights Reserved.

ISBN-10: 1094761184

ISBN-13: 978-1094761183

How To Quote From Books?

Whenever you want to quote something from a book, use the page number, line number and word number.

So, the three basic numbers are,

1. Page Number
2. Line Number
3. Word number

Please note that the “Line Number” in here is the line number of a page. All valid lines should at least include one word in it. Also, line numbering does not count the header, footer or any footnote in that page. So, out of the content of that page, starting with number 1 from top to bottom, any line with at least one word in it, is a valid line.

Also note that the word number is, the number of the word in a line. In each line, word count starts with number 1 from left to right.

Based on the published versions, there are two additional numbers to consider when quoting from a book. Those are,

1. Edition Number (You may use the ISBN or ASIN if editions have separate numbers)
2. Volume Number

Please read this whole section to the end to read about the explanation on how to use these numbers to quote from a book.

Let's look at basic ways of quoting something from the book. For example, if I want to quote the word "*Book*" in the title of this section, then you may quote it as follows,

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i: Line 1: Word 5*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i:1:5*". This is equal to the word "*Book*".

If you want to quote the whole title of this section at once, then use a word range from the first word to the last word of the title as follows,

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i: Line 1: Word 1 to Page i: Line 1: Word 5*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i:1:1—i:1:5*". This quotation is the same as quoting the sentence: "*How to Quote from Books?*"

In the same way, you may quote as many words, lines and pages as needed at once.

To quote a range of pages, use the following method,

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i to Page vii*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i—vii*". This is equal to the seven pages which contain this whole section called "*How to Quote from Books?*".

Similarly, to quote specific pages, you may use the following method (you may include multiple page numbers separated by commas.),

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i, Page vii*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i, vii*". This quote is equal to two pages

numbered '*i*' and '*vii*' which contains the first and the last page of this section on "*How To Quote From Books?*". You may also use a combination of comma-separated page numbers and page ranges to quote everything you want at once.

Similarly, to quote a paragraph or any range of lines, use the following format.

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i: Line 2 to Page i: Line 3*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i:2—i:3*". This is equal to the first paragraph of this section which has only two lines.

Also, to quote specific lines, you may use the following method (you may include multiple line numbers separated by commas.),

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i: Line 2, Line 3*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i:2,3*". This quote also equals to the two lines which contain the first paragraph of this section. You may also use a combination of comma-separated line numbers and line ranges to quote everything you want at once.

So, the most complex form of a quote you can make with this method is to point to some content in a book that starts with one specific word and ends with another specific word, as follows,

"*Purchasing Happiness: Page i: Line 2: Word 1 to Page i: Line 03: Word 8*" or "*Purchasing Happiness: i:2:1—i:3:8*". This quote also equals to the first paragraph of this section which only has two lines.

This manner of quoting will make sure everyone from everywhere refers to the same content of a book while quoting from its content.

If there are multiple editions of a book, then you may also mention the edition number along with the title of the book itself. For example, to quote from the first edition of the book, use the following method,

"*Purchasing Happiness—First Edition: Page i: Line 2: Word 1 to Page i: Line 03: Word 8*" or "*Purchasing Happiness—1st Ed.: i:2:1—i:3:8*". This quote also equal to the first paragraph of this section called "*How To Quote From*

Books?" in the first edition of this book titled "*Purchasing Happiness*".

Similarly, if you are reading a split edition, which means a book that is published in multiple volumes, then please refer to the volume number after the edition number. For example, to quote from the first volume of the first edition, use the following method,

"*Purchasing Happiness—First Edition—Volume I: Page i: Line 2: Word 1 to Page i: Line 03: Word 8*" or "*Purchasing Happiness—1st Ed.—Vol. I: i:2:1—i:3:8*". This quote also equal to the first paragraph of this section called "*How To Quote From Books?*" in the first volume of the first edition of this book titled "*Purchasing Happiness*".

Alternatively, if the editions have separate identification numbers, then you may use the ISBN number or the ASIN number instead of the edition number to quote from a specific edition of the book.

Please note that when the edition number is not present along with the title of the book, consider that quote is from the first edition of the book. Therefore, whoever is quoting

from a later edition of the book other than the first edition must include the edition number or edition name along with the title of the book. This is a must when someone is quoting from a book using this method.

About This Book

This is a short story about four different events happening around the world at the same time. People of the groups involved do not know each other and they are having different issues in life. The author tries to give the reader the opportunity to look into the lives of these people to see how differently they think about life. Also, to show how similar is the actual underneath problem even though they seem to have very different issues on the surface.

Each character in this book has a unique view of life. They all lived unique lives which conditioned them to have this unique view of life and all of them defends their own view. Although the situations and views seem different, each situation in this book is about one point of view over another point of view. This is about one person's mind vs

some other person's mind. The author wants the readers to think, in such instances,

Who is correct?
Who is right?

A reader may pick a side while reading this book and the reader's unique worldview might influence that choice. Even this explanation itself is about the author's unique point of view of the book which a reader may or may not agree.

Purchasing Happiness is one of the many short stories in a short story collection which belongs to another book yet to be published. I hope this short story might draw your attention to the upcoming book and you will become more curious about what the actual book is all about!

This is the second out of six thought-provoking short stories to be released before the main book. Each short story will reveal and discuss certain aspects of current social issues and trends. Starting from April 2019, each book will be released bimonthly within the first week of the month.

Dedication

I Dedicate This Book To Everyone
And Everything That Is Existing,
Ever Existed And Will Someday
Come Into Existence.

Purchasing Happiness

A Guide To An Independent And Sovereign Heart

Somewhere in the world, during a military seminar, a lecturer is trying to teach an army squadron about humanity and the importance of true defence over offence.

Military wanted the squadron to attend this lecture with an immediate effect after some questionable actions they have taken in the field. Their behaviour worried high-ranking officers of the military and they do not want the public to think the military is recruiting people with psychopathic tendencies who has no morals or respect for humanity. So, the commanding officer has asked the

squadron to learn about the value of humanity, through this course, before getting cleared to resume their duties.

The lecturer is a well-known professor and a humanitarian. He usually hates any military involvement in human issues and strongly against the war. However, he got assigned to the military, against his will by the university, to support an ongoing partnership between the military and the university. This partnership allows the university to study the behaviour of military personnel and to help them with their behavioural issues.

[Lecturer]

“Defence?”

“What is the defence?”

“What we all call as the defence is a form of an offence we mistakenly identified as a defence, isn’t it?”

“The moment we defend ourselves, we lose the meaning of defence.”

“We defend ourselves means, we do some stupid things against some threat.”

“That is actually a beginning of offence.”

“We defend ourselves means we resist something.”

“Resisting something by physical means makes us use offensive measures against an offensive threat to defend ourselves.”

“You know what! Any true defence has nothing to do with an offence.”

“In reality, to defend, we don’t have to do anything at all.”

“We do something, trying to do something or even thinking of doing something means we are going against something we already assumed as a threat.”

“True defence means whatever needed defending should defend itself without your conscious intervention.”

“Do you understand what I’m trying to say or are you confused?”

“Questions?”

The major of the squadron looks up to the lecturer and asks,

[The Major]

“Are the automatic turrets and automatic missile defences systems considered a defensive measure? Or an offensive measure?”

Lecturer expected no one to speak but with this interesting question he got startled and asked,

[Lecturer]

“Err…”

“I don’t know.”

“It kills, right?”

The major replies to him with a smirk on his face,

[The Major]

“Yes it does, but we do nothing.”

“We might not even know until we look at its logs.”

As the lecturer hasn’t thought of such a thing before, he was utterly speechless. He knew exactly what those

systems are but couldn't think of an answer which can justify his point of view. He said,

[Lecturer]

"Then, that's in the grey area of things."

"I'll get back to you on that."

"Probably on next time."

The only officer cadet in the squadron leans towards the major and says in a low voice,

[Officer Cadet]

"He's lying!"

Then the lieutenant sitting next to the major also leans towards him and talks to the officer in a low voice,

[Lieutenant]

"He won't."

The officer cadet leans towards the major and says in a low voice,

[Officer Cadet]

“You surely made him disturbed.”

The lieutenant reply in a low voice,

[Lieutenant]

“He’ll probably lose some sleep for few days.”

It is interesting to see that major didn’t reply to either of them. He was just sitting there looking at the lecturer. The lecturer is continuing his lecture in his own sarcastic way,

[Lecturer]

“You don’t know what true defence is.”

“It’s in your heart, not in the weapon you hold.”

Suddenly the lieutenant interrupts the lecturer and asks him,

[Lieutenant]

“You can’t just take your good heart to a gunfight, can you?”

“That won’t defend you, will it?”

The lecturer, annoyed, reply to the lieutenant,

[Lecturer]

“You have no true defence.”

“You don’t even know what defence means.”

The lieutenant got angry about the lecturer’s reply and says,

[Lieutenant]

“Prove it!”

Now the lecturer seems to have got angry. He leans towards the lieutenant and says,

[Lecturer]

“Go fuck yourself!”

Lieutenant suddenly draws his side-arm out and points at the lecturer and says,

[Lieutenant]

“You arsehole!”

“Do you have any idea who you are talking to?”

Finally the lieutenant colonel, who is there to monitor the progress of the squadron, suddenly stands up from his seat and breaks the silence. He yells at the lieutenant,

[Lieutenant Colonel]

“Stand down lieutenant!”

“How the fuck did you bring that gun into this lecture, anyway?”

“Report back to the entrance and leave your weapon in the secure locker.”

“I meant all your weapons! All of you!”

“Now!”

“That’s an order!”

The lecturer turns to the lieutenant with a smirk on his face and says,

[Lecturer]

“I just proved you know nothing about defence.”

“Idiot!”

“Learn from it!”

The lieutenant colonel suddenly jumps between those two and tells the lecturer,

[Lieutenant Colonel]

“OK, you too!”

“Let’s just get back to the lecture and get over with it.”

The lecturer resumes the lecture as nothing has happened,

[Lecturer]

“The moment you see a threat, even when you suspect of a threat you put your guards up. Way up!”

“You build walls.”

“You don’t even hear what they are trying to say from the other side.”

“You’ll draw your gun out in no time.”

“You are ready to pull the trigger with no second thoughts.”

“You are already angry for a threat that might not even exist.”

“You have the physical defence but you know nothing about mental defence or how to keep yourself content.”

“You are just a man with a gun who is egoistic and try to satisfy your masculine tendencies.”

“You care less about humanity.”

“So, even though you were born human you are far away from becoming a human!”

“You are here to defend true humans who protect their humanity and who put humanity above all.”

“You think they are weak.”

“You call them civilians.”

“But they are the true defenders of humanity.”

“You just defend their physical bodies and expect them to say thank you!”

“You want to be a human?”

“Then stop refuelling your ego and defend your humanity.”

“After all if you really have to put an effort to protect your humanity then you are not human at all.”

“At least not even close to becoming a true human with humanity built in.”

Everyone was listening to the lecture and lieutenant is back at his seat. No one raises a voice and everyone keeps listening to everything the lecturer is saying. Suddenly, irritated, the major breaks the silence again and asks,

[Major]

“Are we done yet?”

◆◆◆

Meanwhile, somewhere else in the world, a person is struggling with his newfound obsession which is “Ideas”. Now he collects ideas. He doesn’t want to let any of them go away.

Earlier he was the same as everyone else chasing after materialistic goals while trying to protect his material possessions so hard.

Now, he is having a discussion with a professor who is also one of his old friends, about his newfound obsession in a room of a well-known university.

[Professor]

“You worry about losing your ideas, aren’t you?”

“What changed you?”

“Earlier you forgot many ideas, but you didn’t care.”

“Your targets and precious possessions were your only worries.”

“You don’t want me to name them, do you?”

The professor seems to have mixed feelings about this new change of his friend. He is happy that, finally, his friend has stopped running after possessions but the new obsession of his friend worries him.

“Now, you don’t want to lose any of your ideas!”

“You collect them as an obsession.”

“You have become obsessed!”

“Now you are always writing them down to keep them safe.”

[Obsessed Person]

“I do it for the others!”

[Professor]

“Really?”

“What use others have of things you don’t understand for yourself?”

[Obsessed Person]

“At least someone will understand them.”

“Then that person will get what I’m trying to say and change his or her own self.”

“Somehow this will help other people.”

“If not now then in a future date this will help someone.”

[Professor]

“They will anyway get to know whatever you write about, eventually.”

“If not you, then someone else will come up with the same thing or a similar idea.”

“You writing them down for others only expedite their journey.”

“Nothing else!”

“Expedite your journey first!”

“Then help others.”

◆◆◆

In the military seminar, the lecturer goes on and on about how to protect humanity. He is continuing his lecture regardless of the squadron being bored and the occasional weird noises they make.

[Lecturer]

“Humans protecting humanity are weak and fragile.”

“They are vulnerable and live expecting no trouble.”

“But you!”

“You don’t want to feel weak!”

“You don’t like to feel weak!”

“You think others who feel vulnerable are weak!”

“Are they?”

“You can’t go on for a second without losing your temper.”

“Always suspicious!”

“Your heart and mind don’t have a rest and you don’t feel safe.”

“You might not even know what happiness is.”

“OK, let me explain.”

Suddenly the lecturer has made it an interactive session, probably because of the bored crowd who are almost falling asleep. The lecturer turns to the major and asks,

[Lecturer]

“Have you helped someone?”

“Not militarily, I mean as a person, have you helped someone?”

“Maybe you helped someone or took care of someone’s needs then saw their happiness in their face, did you?”

Startled by the lecturers’ question, major thinks for a few moments and reply,

[Major]

“Yes.”

[Lecturer]

“Do you remember how you felt?”

[Major]

“A little.”

Lecturer looks at the squadron and says,

[Lecturer]

“That bit of feeling is the glimpse of humanity!”

“That virtue is way more important than anything else.”

Again the lecturer looks at the major and asks,

[Lecturer]

“Do you want to keep that feeling throughout your life and never get distracted by anger or any other bad thoughts?”

The major thinks again. It’s like he is trying to relive his experience. Then he replies after a while saying,

[Major]

“Yes.”

Then the lecturer turns towards the lieutenant and says in a raised voice,

[Lecturer]

“Then work on your human side, not on your balls!”

◆◆◆

In the meantime, somewhere else in the world a boy and a girl check into a hotel room. They were unhappy about their lives so far and the boy seems to hate money. They were trying to earn as much as they can to build a good life but they got fed up with that lifestyle. After years of trying, they are nowhere near their goal to become a stable family.

They are just another young couple trying to find their own way in this society.

The boy thinks the ways of the girl are naïve and it irritates him. He goes on telling her what to do all the time and this time the boy accuses the girl of trying to find happiness in money. This is an excerpt from their discussion.

[The Boy]

“Why did you buy these things?”

The boy turned towards the girl holding the new dress and the pair of shoes which she has recently bought.

[The Girl]

“Because those things make me happy!”

[The Boy]

“How many times do you think you gave me the same excuse?”

[The Girl]

“I don’t know!”

[The Boy]

“Do these really make you happy?”

[The Girl]

“Yes!”

[The Boy]

“Then what happened to the dress you purchased last week?”

[The Girl]

“Oh! I forgot to tell you.”

“I gave it to my sister.”

[The Boy]

“What the fuck!”

“It was only a week old!”

“Why did you gave it away?”

[The Girl]

“I wore it already to the party, how can I wear it again?”

“Everyone will notice.”

The boy got angry by her response and said,

[The Boy]

“Why can’t you wear it again after maybe a few months?”

“No one will give a shit about what you wear.”

[The Girl]

“You don’t know that!”

[The Boy]

“And you are saying this makes you happy?”

[The Girl]

“Yes, it does!”

[The Boy]

“And you will give this up after the next party?”

[The Girl]

“Err yeah! I hope so.”

The boy got furious, but he turned around and waited for a while before talking again. After a few minutes, suddenly he turned around towards her and asked,

[The Boy]

“Why do you lose something that makes you happy?”

The boy’s question and attitude annoyed the girl. She answered him in an angry voice without even looking at him.

[The Girl]

“OK! It makes me happy once then it’s old. So, I need a new one. Can you get it?”

The boy has already lost it. He yelled at her with all his bottled up anger.

[The Boy]

“I don’t get it! Why your happiness depends on what you buy?”

“Isn’t there something that makes you happy forever?”

“I’ll fucking buy you that right away!”

“You just keep buying things one after another hoping that new ones make you happy.”

“When this will end?”

“You can’t buy happiness! Can’t you get it?”

“You have to just keep your happiness with you regardless of what you can buy with money.”

“You just can’t buy happiness!”

“You just have to have a good heart!”

The girl seems like she’s already used to such yelling. She was relaxed and said,

[The Girl]

“My heart is fine!”

[The Boy]

“I’m not talking about the organ, you idiot!”

“You know what I’m saying.”

“Why your happiness and contentment depend on outside things?”

“Why can’t you just be content?”

The continuous yelling irritated the girl, and she got angry.

[The Girl]

“Why the fuck you buy things you want then?”

“Why all those video games you never play and all those fucking gadgets you never use?”

Her comeback stunned the boy, and he stopped for a while to think of things he bought recently. Then he said in a meek voice,

[The Boy]

“OK, sometimes I’m guilty too, but you are too much!”

The girl knew she has got an edge, and she yelled at the boy.

[The Girl]

“There’s no ‘too much’ or ‘too little’, you are the same as I am!”

“You are just as greedy as I am!”

“Only difference is you just wait for a sale and do the same!”

“Why did you buy all those fancy phones, computer displays, TVs, game consoles, tools, books and video games?”

“Are you trying to impress someone?”

“I’ve never seen you use them much?”

The boy remembered all the things he bought over the last few years. He already knows he’s guilty of those, too. He then came up with this philosophical side of things to explain his point of view.

[The Boy]

“OK, OK, I’m sorry!”

“We both agree that changes in the materialistic world affect our contentment, right? My question is, why?”

“Why can’t we keep our heart away from all the things happening around us?”

“When we get challenged by intellectual or physical means, we should be able to keep our calm and happiness?”

“This way our happiness won’t get affected by anything else.”

“Then we won’t get annoyed by anything else outside.”

The change of tone and vocabulary made her disinterested of the whole topic. She knew he has gone philosophical, and she didn’t want to listen to it any more.

[The Girl]

“Yeah! Tell me about it!”

“Stop dreaming and help me out.”

“In case you figure out a way just let me know.”

“Till then leave me alone and don’t talk about this purchasing happiness bullshit!”

The boy knew she wasn’t paying attention to what he was talking about. He also wanted to end it and make amends.

[The Boy]

“Aye aye captain!”

“Orders received!”

◆◆◆

Back in the university, the professor is trying to reason with the one who’s trying to collect and treasure his ideas.

[Professor]

“OK, what is your latest idea?”

[Obsessed Person]

“It’s about understanding things.”

“I found that we can put everything we understand into five main categories.”

[Professor]

“You found or you think?”

[Obsessed Person]

“OK, OK, I think.”

“And I know it’s right.”

“Hear me out, it’s perfect.”

[Professor]

“OK, go on.”

[Obsessed Person]

“Five types of understanding.”

“One, Personal Experience.”

“Things we learn and understand through our personal experience.”

“We know these for sure as facts.”

“Two, Observational.”

“We learn and understand things by observing others and the environment.”

“Three, Theoretical.”

“We have proven theories and most of the time these theories work.”

“These are proven knowledge.”

“Four, Hypothetical.”

“These are the ideas we pitch and have a fair amount of confidence to be right.”

“We all start from here and try to prove it.”

“Some we fail, some we prove.”

“This is the lowest sane level of understanding.”

“We know something has to be true but we are not sure yet.”

[Professor]

“Also, it’s not proven yet!”

[Obsessed Person]

“Correct!”

“Five, Delusional.”

“We deceive ourselves with deluded ideas that come with delusions.”

“Then we take those ideas for granted and believe those to be true.”

“There is no way to prove, but we convinced ourselves that these are to be true.”

“In the worst-case scenario, we try to make them real.”

“Have I missed something?”

“Isn’t everything fits into these five?”

At first, his friend coming up with such a theory surprised the professor. He thought the guy is only having typical ideas that almost everyone would come up but he was wrong.

[Professor]

“Yeah, it sounds right.”

“This is the first time I heard it.”

“I need some time to think about it and come up with my critique.”

[Obsessed Person]

“No problem!”

“Take your time.”

◆◆◆

Back in the hotel room, the discussion between the girl and the boy continues.

The noises people make in the next room of the hotel annoyed the girl. So, the boy is trying to calm her down and to understand why she got annoyed.

[The Boy]

“Why do other people bother you?”

[The Girl]

“I don’t know! They just annoy me!”

[The Boy]

“You mean they don’t behave the way you want them to behave?”

[The Girl]

“Yes, exactly!”

[The Boy]

“So what?”

“No one behaves the way we want!”

“No one is your slave, and no one has to behave the way you want!”

“You can’t expect them to behave the way you want!”

[The Girl]

“I know!”

[The Boy]

“Then why do you get annoyed?”

[The Girl]

“It’s just, things they do, bother me.”

“They make noises!”

“Loud noises!”

“I hate that, I just want to relax and stay calm!”

[The Boy]

“So, what do other’s sounds have to do with your calmness?”

[The Girl]

“Because I can hear them!”

“It bothers me! I can’t relax!”

“So, I get distracted! Can’t you get it?”

The boy’s attempts to calm her down annoyed the girl. According to her, he is telling things that no human can understand.

[The Boy]

“OK listen, no one has to live the way you want.”

“They do what they want the same way you do what you want.”

[The Girl]

“What? I bother no one else!”

[The Boy]

“How do you know?”

[The Girl]

“I make no loud noises!”

[The Boy]

“What about your personal timetable?”

“Isn’t that bothering anyone?”

[The Girl]

“No! Why should it bother anyone else?”

The girl’s sleep-wake cycle annoyed the boy. She works during the night time when there are little to no disturbances and she sleeps during the daytime. Even though this makes sense, during the past few years as a couple, they faced many problems because of this behaviour. The boy rarely brings this up, but it seems like he saw an opportunity here.

[The Boy]

“Because you do things during the time others are sleeping!”

“You are like an owl who does everything in the night time and sleeps during the daytime.”

"That bothers other people because people can't interact with you during the daytime!"

[The Girl]

"No one complained, yet!"

[The Boy]

"Exactly! No one complained because it's your choice."

"So, why can't others make their own choices?"

"You just have to learn how to stay content regardless of your sensory inputs."

The boy was trying to mention meditation, but she didn't take it so well because he did not mention it at all.

[The Girl]

"That's just insane!"

"Listen to yourself!"

"How could you say that? That's just retarded!"

[The Boy]

"Then keep on whining!"

[The Girl]

“You don’t understand!”

[The Boy]

“Oh, yeah! I’m the one who doesn’t understand!”

◆◆◆

Meanwhile, somewhere else in the world, a vulnerable person having a hard time trying to keep his guards up. He and two of his friends having a conversation in a cafe about his ongoing issues with female love interests.

[Friend #1]

“You know what’s wrong with you, aren’t you?”

[Vulnerable Person]

“No! Enlighten me.”

[Friend #1]

“OK, let me be honest with you.”

“The moment someone cute and sexy talks to you with a soft horny voice, you put your whole guard down.”

“Way too down, to be honest.”

[Friend #2]

“Yeah man! You put your guards way too below your pants.”

“You become defenceless.”

[Friend #1]

“In your face!”

“Exactly my point!”

“From that point onwards you think from your dick instead of your brain.”

“So, you usually lose everything and get emotionally distracted.”

“The problem is we are the ones who are suffering from all the consequences of your emotionally devastated sorry arse!”

◆◆◆

Back in the university, the professor is still trying to get his head around with what has just happened. He is trying to think about the new theory his friend just came up with. However, his friend is having a hard time trying to stop thinking about new things.

[Obsessed Person]

“I’m having another idea!”

“Do you want me to tell that to you?”

[Professor]

“Wait, wait, I’m not done with the first one yet!”

“I told you I need some time.”

[Obsessed Person]

“Yes, but this is new.”

The professor got annoyed by this tendency of his friend. He wanted to hear what his friend has to say, but he also needed some time to process everything that is going on.

[Professor]

“You know what?”

“You can’t stop thinking.”

“Your mind jumps from one thing to another like a monkey.”

“You can’t control it!”

“You can’t stop it, can you?”

[Obsessed Person]

“No, I mean these are cool ideas, aren’t they?”

“These are too important to ignore.”

[Professor]

“How many people, do you think, come up with new shit every day?”

“Did you think about that?”

“Go search the internet and see.”

“It’ll blow your mind when you see how many new things people come up with every day.”

[Obsessed Person]

“People never stop thinking! So, what?”

“Not everyone comes up with important things.”

“I think my ideas are way too important to ignore.”

[Professor]

“Now you are restless, aren’t you?”

“You want to write it down or say it before you forget it, right?”

[Obsessed Person]

“You are correct!”

“It’s important!”

“I can’t help it!”

[Professor]

“Yeah, I know!”

“Neither can I!”

◆◆◆

Back in the hotel room. The young couple takes their discussion to the next level.

A few hours after their previous argument, they continued their discussion about taking control of their lives. The boy is trying to explain how things work in reality from a philosophical perspective and how to learn to be content regardless of all the nuisances.

[The Boy]

“The things we can’t control or have no control over make us angry and annoyed.”

“We both know that!”

“This is because we think everything should go according to our plan.”

“We want everything to happen the way we want!”

“Why can’t we just start everything with the assumption ‘nothing goes according to our plan’ and then plan things?”

“Then if everything goes according to the plan, good for us!”

“But if something goes wrong, then who cares?”

“Because we knew that already!”

This time the girl is listening to the boy, and she is in tune with the philosophical side of things.

[The Girl]

“But we can make things happen the way we want, can’t we?”

[The Boy]

“Yes! We can, but that takes time, money, planning and power.”

“Maybe there are some other factors, too.”

“But remember, by doing so, we manipulate others to make them behave according to our will.”

[The Girl]

“Can you see the importance of money now?”

“With money, we can get all the power and upper hand we need to make things happen the way we want.”

“We only need ‘money’ to make those things happen!”

[The Boy]

“Oh! Now you want to play the god and you want to pay for it with money.”

[The Girl]

“So, if the god is real, isn’t the god doing the same or something similar?”

That question startled the boy. He wasn’t trying to think about the religious side of things. After a few moments of silence, he replied,

[The Boy]

“Well, I don’t know!”

“I don’t know God, to begin with.”

“I don’t know where God is.”

“I’ve never spoken to the god or any other sentient being other than a human.”

“So, I don’t know what the god does.”

[The Girl]

“But you know, with everything that everyone else is saying, the god is omnipotent, and the god does things according to his or her plan!”

[The Boy]

“I don’t care about what others say until I meet the god in person!”

“They’d probably be lying.”

“How do you think they know?”

[The Girl]

“OK, for the moment, just assume what they are saying is true.”

“Then, if the god is having a plan for everyone and wants everyone to follow it, isn’t that the same as me wanting things my way?”

The boy paused for a while and thought about it. Then he replied,

[The Boy]

“Yes, it does!”

[The Girl]

“Then, isn’t the god using all of his or her powers to make things happen the way he or she wants?”

[The Boy]

“If the god does that then, yes!”

“That affects free will as well!”

“It’s a dictatorship!”

“I think no sane god would play with someone else’s free will.”

[The Girl]

“How do you know?”

[The Boy]

“Otherwise this world cannot exist!”

“If what you are saying is true then, this has to be a world with a bunch of robots and trained dogs walking around!”

[The Girl]

“So, you think there’s no primordial being with a plan.”

[The Boy]

“I don’t know that, yet!”

“What I’m saying is, if there is someone like that then that one better not use his or her powers to take over other’s free will for the sake of that plan.”

“Having a primordial will means the end of the free will.”

“Then everything we do is for that primordial will.”

“No other will matters!”

The boy’s answer frightened the girl. She paused and thought about it for a while and said,

[The Girl]

“Oh! That’s scary!”

[The Boy]

“Yeah! That’s what I said earlier.”

“Don’t do that same thing with your money!”

◆◆◆

About The Author

Nuwan Wijayaweera (1984) was born in Kurunegala, Sri Lanka. He is a Sri Lankan IT professional who worked for various Sri Lankan and Australian companies since 2008. He wrote posts and articles since 2014 and he has written many blog posts since then. Now he is working on his first major book, which contains logs from his life events and his personal philosophy towards life.